that the country should go for a poll. Thereafter, no session of Parliament was held. The present Government came to power on the 21st of June, 1991. They have been sleeping over it for the last four and a half years.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Where is the sanctity for your Bill? You were thrown out of power.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: Madam, I fully share the anxiety of the hon. Member. After our Government came to power in 1991, a number of representations came from the NGOs, from the public, and from the State Governments. Our Government had a number of discussions with the State Governments and the NGOs. We have improved upon the Bill for the welfare of the weaker sections, specially the disabled. The new Bill is going to be introduced in the Lok Sabha before the session ends. I have already given notice to that effect. And I hope, this new Bill will give a lot of impetus, a lot of improvement, and that will bring about a balance in the society. I assure the hon. Member and the House that we are very much interested in the welfare of the handicapped. The new Bill contains a lot of avenues for the development and welfare of the disabled people at large. I would appeal to the hon. Member as well as to the House. I am assuring the House, on behalf of my Ministry, that we will introduce the Bill in this Session itself.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: When are you going to bring this forward? You give an assurance.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: There are only three days left, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are only three days left. Has the Bill already been introduced in the Lok Sabha?

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: Not yet, Madam. Only after the withdrawal of this Bill, we can introduce the new Bill.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is it ready?

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: It is ready. Already, notice has been given.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is ready. Okay. Now, the question is:

> "That leave be granted to withraw the Board for Welfare and Protection of Rights of Handicapped Bill, 1991."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: Madam, I withdraw the Bill.

THE DOCK WORKERS (REGULATION OF EMPLOYMENT) (INAPPLICABILITY TO MAJOR PORTS) BILL, 1995.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for inapplicablity of the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1948, to dock workers of major port trusts and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The question was proposed.

SHRI JIBON ROY (West Bengal): Madam, I want to make a submission.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: At this point, how can you speak? The Bill is only being introduced. It is not being taken up for consideration.

SHRI JIBON ROY: I am not opposing the introduction of the Bill, Madam. I only want to make a submission here, for the consideration of the hon. Minister. My submission is that there is a widespread apprehension among the workers that they would lose their job if all the ports are amalgmated. May only

request is that before this Bill is taken up for discussion, the hon. Minister should discuss it with all the national trade unions and then come up before the house. This is the only submission I wanted to make. The hon. Minister has not discussed this matter with the trade unions.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is only introducing it. It has not come up for consideration.

SHRI JIBON ROY: I want that the Minister should discuss the matter with the national trade unions.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, whatever apprehensions he has expressed before you, please take care of it and when this Bill comes up for discussion in the house, please come back with those...

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I would do that, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the question is:

> "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide the inapplicability of the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1948 to dock workers of major port trusts and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

THE SIXTH SCHEDULE TO THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1995

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): Madam, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India in its application to the State of Assam, be taken into consideration."

Madam, in recognition of the need to allow the tribal areas to be developed in the light of the genius of the different tribes inhabiting the hilly areas, the framers of the Constitution, after careful deliberations in the Constituent Assembly, provided for Autonomous District Councils, under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. These Autonomous District Councils were an innovative Constitutional arrangement for devolution of powers to the tribal people by giving them a decisive role in their development, through the instrumentality of grassroot planning.

The Autonomous District Councils and the Regional Councils have powers to make laws in the field of land, forest, shifting cultivation, irrigation, town and village administration, and social customs like marriage, divorce, inheritance, etc.

The Sixth Schedule was, initially, made applicable to three districts each in Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram. Subsequently, in 1984, the Sixth Schedule was also extended to the tribal areas of Tripura, and the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council was formed. Thereafter, the Sixth Schedule was further amended in 1988, insofar as its applicability to the areas of Mizoram and Tripura was concerned. Through these amendments, the Governors of these States were given more discretionary powers in respect of certain functions of the ADCs, with a view to minimizing the overall control of the State Governments on the ADCs. These amendments were, however, not applied to Assam and Meghalaya.

Representative organizations of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hill districts in Assam, which are governed under the aegis of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution, have been feeling dissatisfied with the quantum of autonomy available under the said Schedule. They have, therefore, been raising demands for more autonomy. A